

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 QUITO 01430 01 OF 02 081411Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 SSO-00 /020 W
-----017012 081420Z /42

O R 081305Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7526
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 1430

FOR ARELLANDO ARA AND FALCO S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, EC
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: VISIT BY SENIOR ADVISOR FALCO AND DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARELLANO

REFS: (A) QUITO A-5, (B) 77 QUITO 1344, (C) 77 QUITO 1509
(D) 77 QUITO 5943, (E) 77 QUITO 5944, (F) 77 QUITO 6569,
(G) 77 QUITO 6571, (H) 77 QUITO 8431, (I) QUITO 418, (J) QUITO 792

1. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS VISIT GROWS FROM, AND RESPONDS TO, AN EVIDENT NEED. ECUADOR IS A KEY TRANSIT POINT ON THE ROUTE THAT TAKES COCA BASE AND COCAINE FROM THE FROWING AREAS OF BOLIVIA AND PERU TO THE ELABORATION AND DISTRIBUTION CENTERS OF COLOMBIA. GOVERNMENTAL INERTIA AND CORRUPTION IN THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE JUDICIARY ARE AT SUCH A LEVEL THAT OUR EFFORT TO STOP THE INFLOW OF DRUGS TO THE NORTH IS GREATLY HANDICAPPED (SEE REFS A THROUGH J) FOR DETAILS ON THE KIND AND LEVEL OF THESE CORRUPT ACTIVITIES).

2. THE EMBASSY HAS, SINCE 1974 AND WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY DURING THE PAST YEAR (REF A CONTAINS A DETAILED CHRONOLOGY OF THESE EFFORTS), BROUGHT TO THE
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SECRET

PAGE 02 QUITO 01430 01 OF 02 081411Z

ATTENTION OF THE GOE THE FACT THAT ITS POOR PERFORMANCE ON THE DRUG FRONT WAS OF CONCERN TO THE USG. OUR EFFORTS HAVE PRODUCED FEW MEANINGFUL RESULTS. IT IS NOW TIME TO IMPRESS FURTHER UPON THE GOE THAT THIS IS A CONCERN EMPHATICALLY HELD BY THE USG AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. THUS THE MISSION'S DESIRE FOR THE VISIT BY SENIOR OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE EFFORT TO COMBAT

NARCOTICS ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING.

3. REF D DESCRIBES IN DETAILED TERMS THE LINKAGES BETWEEN OUR ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT AND OTHER US GOALS IN ECUADOR. IT ALSO DISCUSSES THE AVAILABILITY, OR LACK THEREOF, OF ADEQUATE LEVERAGE TO PRODUCE A REACTION. THE PROPOSED TALKING POINTS, THEREFORE, ATTEMPT TO STRESS USG CONCERN AND TO TIE SUBTLY GOE NARCOTICS PERFORMANCE TO USG COOPERATION WITH THE GOE IN OTHER AREAS, WITHOUT DIRECTLY THREATENING TO TAKE ACTIONS THE USG HAS NOT YET DETERMINED IT IS WILLING TO DO.

4. TALKING POINTS: A. NOTE EXCELLENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND US, PARTICULARLY REFERENCE WITH PLEASURE TO OUR ABILITY TO HAVE ASSISTED ECUADOR IN ITS NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS.

--NOTE SPECIFICALLY RECOILLESS RIFLES AND LAWS FOR THE ARMY, A DESTROYER FOR THE NAVY, AND THE AIR DEFENSE SURVEY TEAM AND OFFER OF VULCAN-CHAPPARAL FOR THE AIR FORCE.

B. EXPRESS CERTAINTY THAT THE RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

C. REMIND GENERAL DURAN THAT AS HE IS AWARE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 QUITO 01430 01 OF 02 081411Z

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO ADMIRAL POVEDA, FROM HIS MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD AND FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE USG IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT NARCOTIC ABUSE AND TRAFFIC, WHICH CAUSES DAMAGE TO ECUADOREAN AND US CITIZENS ALIKE AND HARMS THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETIES.

--IN FACT, THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE IN ECUADOR IS GROWING, AND EXPERIENCE IN OTHER AREAS INDICATES THAT THE GROWTH OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CAUSES A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DRUG USERS IN A COUNTRY.

--MOREOVER, COUNTRIES ARE REALIZING THAT THE POWER AND WEALTH OF MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS IS SO GREAT THAT IT CAN UNDERMINE AND CORRUPT THE MORAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES OF A NATION.

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SECRET

PAGE 01 QUITO 01430 02 OF 02 081412Z
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INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 1430

FOR ARELLANO ARA AND FALCO S/NM

D. STATE THAT ECUADOR CAN BE KEY TO CONTINENTAL
EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE TRAFFIC IN DRUGS.

--IT IS A PRINCIPAL ROUTE FOR COCA PASTE MOVING
TO COLOMBIA FOR PROCESSING INTO COCAINE, WITH ESTIMATES
OF NO LESS THAN 30 TONS OF COCA PASTE TRANSITING
EVERY YEAR.

--EVEN THE LEVEL OF COCAINE PRODUCTION IN ECUADOR,
ESTIMATED AT 2,000 KILOS ANNUALLY, IS SUFFICIENT TO
WARRANT VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT ACTION.

--IN ADDITION, WE NOTE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE
COCAINE ROUTE ARE TAKING VIGOROUS ACTION TO CONTRIBUTE
TO THE EFFORT TO STOP THE TRAFFIC: COLOMBIA RECENTLY
CREATED AN ELITE POLICE FORCE DIRECTLY UNDER THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL TO ENFORCE NARCOTICS LAWS, AND PERU HAS RECENTLY
PASSED A NEW, VERY STRONG NARCOTICS LAW.

E. EMPHASIZE THAT OUR CONCERN IS THERE HAVE BEEN
NO SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO DATE TO TAKE STRONG ACTION
AGAINST THE MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS WHO MOVE THESE
LARGE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS THROUGH ECUADOR.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 QUITO 01430 02 OF 02 081412Z

--WHILE CONSUMERS AND ADDICTS ARE ARRESTED REGULARLY,
THE LEADERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC OPERATE
WITH IMPUNITY, EVEN THOUGH AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF
THE IDENTITY OF ALL IMPORTANT TRAFFICKERS IN ECUADOR.

--WHILE ALMOST EVERY MAJOR TRAFFICKER HAS BEEN
ARRESTED AT LEAST ONCE, BECAUSE OF CORRUPTION WITHIN
THE ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY AND THE JUDICIARY, THEY
ARE ALMOST NEVER PUNISHED.

F. STATE THAT WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE JANUARY 30
MEETING BETWEEN CHARGE CORR AND MESSRS KUYKENDALL AND
GUZMAN WITH SUBSECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT MANRIQUE, IN WHICH
EFFORTS THE GOE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE IN
THIS AREA WERE RELATED, SUCH AS:

--REVITALIZING THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS;

--PUBLICLY DECLARING A WAR ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING;

--SEPARATION OF NARCOTICS POLICE FUNCTION FROM OTHER POLICE
FUNCTIONS;

--AND ESPUBLISHMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE FORM OF POLICE INSPECTION.

G. SAY THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER
INFORMATION YOU MIGHT HAVE ON EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THIS PLAN.

H. STRESS THAT WE HOPE THIS INCREASED
EFFORT BEARS FRUIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE BY BRINGING ABOUT
THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS
AND THE SEIZURE OF COCAINE LABORATORIES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 QUITO 01430 02 OF 02 081412Z

I. CONCLUDE BY AGAIN NOTING OUR FRUITFUL COOPERATION
ON OTHER PROBLEMS OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR COUNTRIES, AND
BY EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT AN EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM CAN HELP TO MAINTAIN OUR RELATIONS
AT A CLOSE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL LEVEL.

5. EMBASSY'S PROPOSED TALKING POINTS CAN BE REVIEWED
AND REVISED TO MEET DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND
SENIOR ADVISOR'S WISHES ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 13, IN
QUITO, PRIOR TO MEETING WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE
FOR MARCH 14.
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